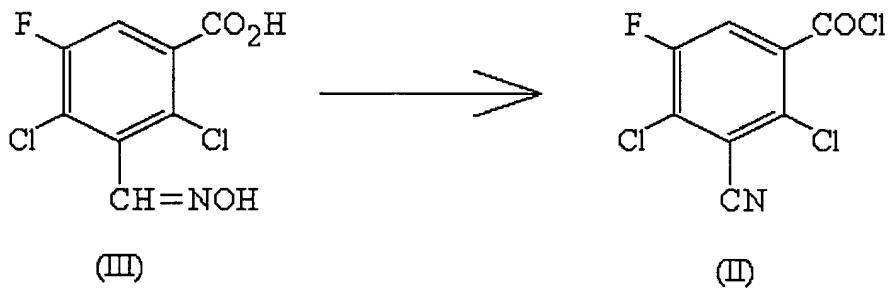


IN THE CLAIMS:

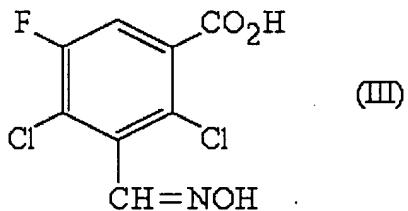
1-2 (Canceled).

3 (Amended). A process for the production of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl chloride comprising the step of converting Use of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl fluoride to for the preparation of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl chloride by reaction of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl fluoride with a chlorinating agents, optionally in the presence of a diluents.

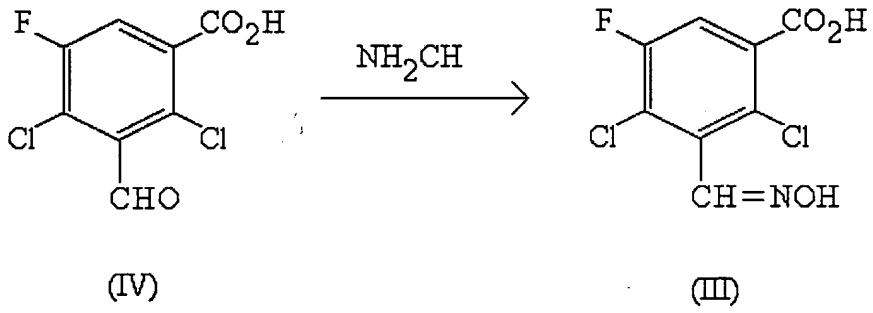
4 (Amended). A process for the preparation of 3-cyano-2,4,5-trifluoro-benzoyl chloride of the formula (II) by comprising the step of simultaneously eliminating elimination of water from 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid (III) and converting with simultaneous conversion of the carboxylic acid function into a the carbonyl chloride through use of a chlorinating agent according to the following equation:



5 (Original). 2,4-Dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyamino-methylbenzoic acid of the formula (III)

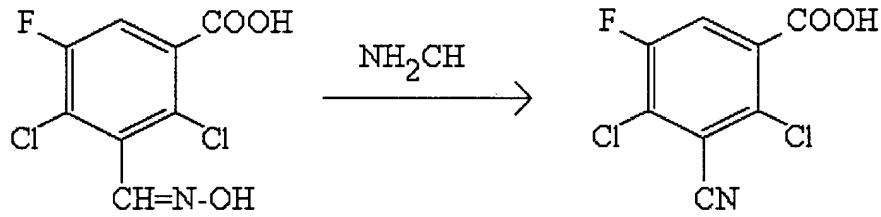


6 (Amended). Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-5fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid of the formula (III) according to Claim 5, by reaction of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-formyl-benzoic acid of the formula (IV) with hydroxylamine according to the following equation:



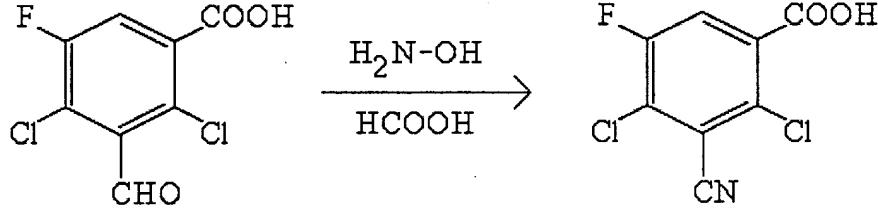
7 (Amended). Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-3-cyano-5-fluoro-benzoic acid

a) by elimination of water from 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-N-hydroxyiminomethyl-benzoic acid of the formula (III) according to the following equation



or

b) by reaction of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-3-formyl-benzoic acid of the formula (IV) with hydroxylamine in the presence of formic acid according to the following equation



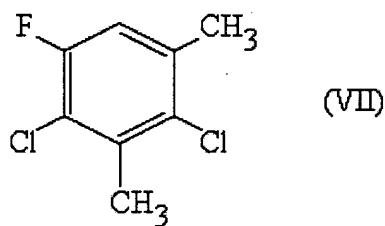
8 (Cancelled).

9 (Cancelled).

10 (Canceled).

11 (Canceled).

12 (Amended). 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene of the formula (VII)



13 (Amended). Process for the preparation of 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene of the formula (VII) according to Claim 12 by ring chlorination of 5-fluoro-1,3-xylene (VIII) to give 2,4-dichloro-5-fluoro-1,3-dimethylbenzene (VII) using chlorine gas, optionally in a diluent and in the presence of a catalyst according to the following equation:

